



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Picture Book Edition

By William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer

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When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library . . . and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind.

Lyrical and gloriously illustrated, this story will inspire many as it shows how - even in the worst of times - a great idea and a lot of hard work can still rock the world.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #43860 in Books
- Brand: Dial
- Published on: 2012-01-19
- Released on: 2012-01-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.25" h x .33" w x 9.38" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—This youth edition of the original adult book of the same title has been skillfully adapted for middle grade readers. Kamkwamba recounts a period from his childhood living in a small Malawi village. His family was poor, but they got by working as farmers. Kamkwamba was in elementary school, about to graduate to secondary school, when the drought and famine of the mid-2000s upset the patterns of local life. The author deftly describes the devastating effects upon his family: they ate insects, and rations were reduced to only a single mouthful daily. Many around them suffered even worse. Somehow, the family struggled through until the rains returned to nourish a new crop, but they couldn't afford Kamkwamba's school fees. He farmed with his father but also discovered a local library, where he taught himself to engineer a windmill to draw water to irrigate the fields. Those around him thought he was crazy as he salvaged motor parts, a PVC pipe, his father's broken bicycle, and anything else he could find. Kamkwamba did successfully harness the wind, managing to light his family's house, charge community cell phones for a small income, and pump irrigation water. A school inspection team saw the windmill and brought educators to see the teen engineer, who was invited to speak at the African TED conference and given a scholarship. This is a fascinating, well-told account that will intrigue curious minds, even the somewhat anticlimactic closing chapters describing Kamkwamba's education. There is also a picture book version of this tale (Dial, 2012), making it of interest to all-school reading programs. An inspiring, incredible story.—Dorcas Hand, Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, TX

Review

"[An] inspiring story of curiosity and ingenuity." — **Publishers Weekly**

"This book will appeal to adults eager to impart an uplifting Third World human-interest story, but it is also sure to resonate with children who will simply love the curiosity, resilience and resourcefulness of this doughty African youth." — **Wall Street Journal**

"A powerful, gorgeously illustrated children's picture book." — **The Boston Globe**

"This is a dynamic portrait of a young person whose connection to the land, concern for his community, and drive to solve problems offer an inspiring model." — **School Library Journal**

"Zunon illustrates handsomely, with contrasting cut-paper-collage details and broad, sere landscapes painted in visibly textured oils." — **Kirkus**

"This picture book in accessible free verse will draw kids who love to construct their own engineering gadgets." — **Booklist**

Cooperative Children's Book Center's 2013 Best-of-the-year list. — **CCBC**

About the Author

William Kamkwamba (williamkamkwamba.typepad.com) currently attends Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Bryan Mealer (www.bryanmealer.com) lives in Brooklyn, New York. The original version of their *Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* was a New York Times Bestseller and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year.

Bryan Mealer is the author of *Muck City* and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, which he wrote with William Kamkwamba. Since publication, the book has received many honors and has been translated into over a dozen languages. Mealer is also the author of *All Things Must Fight to Live*, which chronicled his years covering the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo for *Harper's* and the Associated Press. His forthcoming book, *The Kings of Big Spring*, a multi-generational saga about his family in West Texas, will be published by Flatiron Books in early 2018. He and his family live in Austin.

Elizabeth Zunon grew up in Ivory Coast, West Africa, and now lives in Albany, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shirley Joy:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for people. The book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Picture Book Edition* was making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Picture Book Edition* is not only giving you much more new information but also being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Picture Book Edition*. You never feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

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Edward Roth:

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